
SOUTHWEST OPERATIONS GROUP CHARTER

(5/30/08)



I. Authority

This group is chartered by the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) under terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding for Operation of the Southwest Coordinating Group (2008)*. This charter sets forth guidelines and procedures by which the Southwest Operations Group, hereafter referred to as the “Group”, shall operate. The Group is so named because of its coordination responsibilities of several standing Southwest operations related sub-committees.

II. Mission Statement

“Working together to enhance the interagency coordination of wildland fire operations to enable safer, more efficient and cost effective wildland fire management in the Southwest Geographic Area”.

III. Objectives

Promote fire-fighter safety. Reduce the risk and cost of wildland fire operations. Utilize and advance interagency solutions for fire management including: proper utilization of the Appropriate Management Response (AMR) including suppression and fire use, better fire detection, effective fire equipment and fire communications. Assist with interagency incident management team makeup, coordination, and oversight. Focus on improved training and active mentoring to promote fire management leadership. Encourage and utilize innovative technologies, tools, and active interagency coordination.

IV. Membership

Membership of the Group shall consist of:

- A. Fire management representative(s) from the following agencies within the Southwest geographic area with interest, expertise or experience in providing or applying Wildland Fire Operations:

- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management: Arizona, New Mexico
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Arizona State Forestry Division
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- New Mexico State Forestry Division

- B. Southwest Area Coordinating Group (SWCG) liaison.
- C. Ad Hoc members and Technical Advisors, as needed.

V. Officers

The Group shall have the following officers:

- A. Chair
- B. Vice Chair (vice chair will take over role if chair is vacant)
- C. Secretary (secretary will be appointed by Chair)

The Group Officers shall serve two years and the positions should rotate among the agencies. The rotation order may be changed by Group vote if necessary. The rotation is currently in the order of Group representatives, per IV, A, above. The Chair has responsibility for maintaining the Ops Group web page on the SWCG website and for facilitating meetings and business of the group. The Vice Chair will act as the Chair when the Chair is unavailable.

VI. Key Responsibilities and Duties

The Group may receive action items or tasks from three sources; the SWCG, self-generated by members of the Group, or issues from other SWCG committees. Primary responsibilities of the Group are as follows:

- A. Advise the SWCG on area-specific interagency actions concerning fire ground safety, with emphasis on communications, fire equipment and tactical application and integration of interagency resources.
- B. Advise the SWCG on area-specific interagency strategies and techniques to reduce the risk and cost of wildland fire operations activities within the Southwest Area.
- C. Advise the SWCG on interpretation of agency policy and direction for interagency application in matters pertaining to Wildland Fire Operations.
- D. Establish, implement and assure standards for Incident Command System issues.
- E. Interface with NWCG Incident Operations Working Team (IOSWT) as necessary.
- F. Coordinate and promote research and development related to Wildland Fire Operations.
- G. Provide advocacy of new techniques, practices, and procedures which facilitate more effective and safe interagency wildland fire operations in the Southwest.
- H. Overall coordination and leadership of the following sub-committees: Southwest Interagency Engine Sub-committee, Southwest Interagency IHC/Type 1 Crew Sub-committee, Southwest Interagency Type 2 Crew Sub-committee.
- I. Nomination, selection, and coordination of the SW Interagency Incident Management Team processes as delegated by SWCG.

VII. Meetings

The Group shall meet at least twice a year at a site to be selected at the previous meeting. These meetings shall be in spring and fall. Meetings are open to interested parties within the wildland fire management community. Additional conference calls will be arranged as needed. Four Group members shall constitute a voting quorum. Voting by correspondence is permissible if topics are referred to the members by the Chair. Any Group member can request additional meetings or teleconferences if the need should arise.

VIII. Special Circumstances

This Charter and the standing Group shall remain in effect until amended by the Group or by the Southwest Area Coordinating Group. Additional Operational Procedures shall be promulgated by the group as needed.

Recommended By:

Approved By:

/s/ Richard M Nieto 01/08/08

/s/ Bob Lineback 5-30-08

Richard M Nieto, Chair
Southwest Area Operations Group

Bob Lineback, Chair
Southwest Area Coordinating Group